

simultaneously visually present a smooth continuous surface of the glazing bead to mask a junction of the panel with the support structure.

b) 5. A bent metal glazing bead formed of pressed steel sheet material having a pair of spaced elongated legs having an inside U-shaped channel therebetween, each leg having portions thereof that have a U-shaped hollow cross-section, one side of each U-shape leg portion being short and the other side being long and said sides being interconnected to form said hollow cross-section, a bridge element joining the spaced apart elongated legs so as to provide an outside continuous surface spanning both elongated legs and the inside U-shaped channel;

the U-shaped inside channel of the glazing bead configured to cooperate in a mating fashion with a portion of a mullion to sandwich panels on either side of the mullion between the elongated legs and an opposing surface portion of the mullion to thereby simultaneously glaze both sides of the mullion and thereby present the smooth continuous outside surface of the glazing channel to mask a junction of the panels with the mullion.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 17, 2002, and the reference cited therein has been carefully considered. Claims 1-6 are presently pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Breithaupt, U.S. Patent No. 4,557,089.

Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly emphasize their distinctiveness over the prior art. Although, Breithaupt '089 is primarily concerned with a fire retardant barrier between the mullion and closure areas, it is evident that the cover strip 5 is an extruded aluminum type structure. See, column 3, lines 41-44. As pointed out in Applicant's specification, particularly the Background, pages 1-3, it is well recognized in the art that the two systems, hollow metal/pressed steel and aluminum extrusions are distinct from one another. In Breithaupt, the anchoring plate 7 with screws 16 holds the glass plates. The cover strip 5 is a finishing item that carries a sealing or insulating strip 14,15 in the rabbeted recess 13. As is typical for an extruded element, the cover strip has varying thicknesses and integral structures that cannot be simply made from a pressed sheet stock or material which has a uniform thickness throughout.

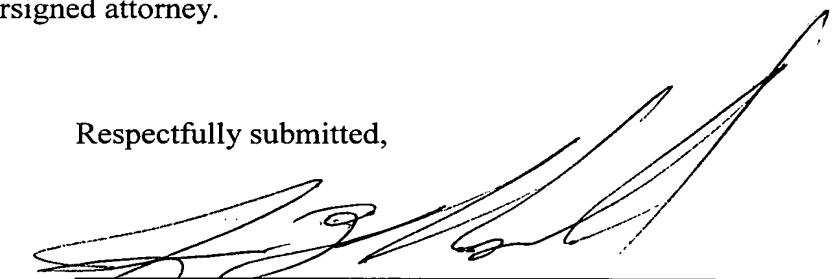
In re Appln. of Al Mitrevics
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In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1-6 are distinguishable and non-obvious as compared to the Breithaupt structure and constitute a patentable improvement in the art.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 17, 2002

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: October 17, 2002

Darina J. Arshas